

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nobutaka CHIBA et al.

Title: SEPARATOR FOR FUEL CELL, FUEL CELL STACK, METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURING SEPARATOR FOR FUEL CELL, AND FUEL CELL
VEHICLE

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: 3/21/2006

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Documents A1-A3 and A8 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited as being relevant during a search of the corresponding International application. A copy of the International Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

The relevance of non-English language documents A4-A7 and A9 is described in the present specification.

Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant and the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicants have endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a “concise explanation of relevance” for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

10/572741

Atty. Dkt. No. 040302-0551
AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 MAR 2006

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 21, 2006

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By



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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: March 21, 2006 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known Application Number: Unassigned Filing Date: 3/21/2006 First Named Inventor: Nobutaka CHIBA Group Art Unit: Unassigned Examiner Name: Unassigned Attorney Docket Number: 040302-0551	
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A1	JP	03-068794	A	THE FURUKAWA ELECTRIC CO. LTD.	03-25-1991		Abstr.
	A2	JP	10-228914	A	AININ TAKAOKA LTD.	08-25-1998		Abstr.
	A3	EP	1 237 215	A2	DAIDO TOKUSHUKO KABUSHIKI KAISHA	09-04-2002		
	A4	JP	2000-323149	A	MITSUBISHI HEAVY IND. LTD.	11-24-2000		Abstr.
	A5	JP	2002-190305	A	NIPPON STEEL CORP.	07-05-2002		Abstr.
	A6	JP	2002-254180	A	DAIDO STEEL CO. LTD.	09-10-2002		Abstr.
	A7	JP	2002-260681	A	DAIDO STEEL CO. LTD.	09-13-2002		Abstr.
	A8	CA	2 450 703	A1	HONDA GIKEN KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA	04-03-2003		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
	A9	"Development and Practical Use of Solid Polymer Type Fuel Cell," Technical Information Institute Co., Ltd., 1999, p. 88-96.	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.